

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- Sub A<sup>1</sup> 1. A data base for permanent data, comprising:
- a buffer into which is written all data to be permanently stored;
  - a permanent memory connected to the buffer, the permanent memory having at least two storage areas in each of which all permanent data from the buffer is stored.
2. The data base according to claim 1, wherein the data base further comprises a control mechanism within a first application process for management of a first memory controls writing of the data to be permanently stored into the buffer, the data being generated or modified by the first application process alone or also by other application processes running simultaneously with the first application process.
3. The data base according to claim 2, wherein for a number of application processes running simultaneously, a control mechanism within the first application process, by exchanging messages with control mechanisms of the other application processes, controls accesses, required for loading the data to be permanently stored, of individual application processes running simultaneously, to the buffer using process identification numbers, entered in a shared memory, of the application processes running simultaneously.

4. The data base according to claim 1, wherein all of the permanent data stored in the buffer is alternately written into one of the storage units or storage areas of the permanent memory.

Sub D1 5. The data base according to claim 4, wherein only modified data sequences are alternately written into storage segments of the permanent memory.

6. The data base according to claim 5, wherein the modified data sequences are written into the storage segments of the permanent memory at predetermined time intervals.

7. The data base according to claim 5, wherein the modified data sequences are written into the storage segments of the permanent memory after a predetermined number of modifications.

Sub A2 8. The data base according to claim 1, wherein only the permanent data, if necessary including reconstruction data, is transferred into the buffer from a first memory which contains a run-time program and associated permanent data.

9. The data base according to claim 8, wherein the permanent data is stored in a space-saving manner as a data sequence in the buffer and in the permanent memory.

10. The data base according to claim 1, wherein at least one further permanent memory is provided for a start program and application software including data base management software, with use of which configuration data to be written into the first memory is automatically reconstructed from the permanent data stored in the permanent memory.

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P1 11. The data base according to claim 1, wherein if construction data which is useable for reconstruction is present in the buffer, the configuration data to be written into the first memory is automatically recovered from the reconstruction data stored in the buffer.

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P3 12. The data base according to claim 1, wherein the buffer has at least two random access memories, functionally connected in series, permanent data stored in the first random access memory being written into the second random access memory so that the first random access memory is available for reloading while permanent data from the second or a further random access memory is written into the permanent memory.

13. The data base according to claim 1, wherein the permanent memory is a loadable Flash Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory chip.

14. The data base according to claim 1, wherein the data base it is provided for permanent configuration of at least one of and characteristics of a terminal and, terminal cards.

15. The data base according to claim 14, wherein a plurality of configurations are stored, one of said configurations being selected for hardware implementation.

*Sub A4* 16. The data base according to claim 14, wherein a number of configuration changes are only performed at a data management side and thereafter a functional and/or hardware change comprising all configuration changes is performed in the terminal.